

wish to express my conviction in favor of the three years' course of training. While it is true that the third year does not make a good nurse of a poor one, nor does it give her the instruction in the essential knowledge of practical work, still the responsibility which the third-year nurse has is of much benefit to her. She has more time to apply her knowledge and observe details, which can better be brought out in the hospital, with its numbers for comparison, than in the one case at a time of private work. Above all, it gives her poise. Personally, I am a college graduate, and so have spent four additional years in preparation for my life-work. I would not give up one of them, nor would I choose a training of only two years. To me the profession means more than a mere means of support.

SUSIE A. WATSON

Newton Hospital Training-school.

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DEAR EDITOR: During the past year and a half a number of well known physicians and nurses in New York City and vicinity have been much interested in a small washing machine which is intended to wash only small articles, and is especially adapted to articles of a disagreeable or unsanitary nature. The process is entirely mechanical, it not being necessary for the hands to come in contact with the article, soap, water, or effete matter. It is often an embarrassing experience, when a nurse is called into the household of a strange family, to know what to do about such articles as bands, towels, and other small pieces, when they are in constant demand, and the supply on hand is small, as it is in many families of moderate means. Such articles are often not only disagreeable but unsanitary to have lying around until the arrogant maid-of-all-work condescends to attend to them; and I am sure it has been the experience of many trained nurses that when sickness comes to a household servants are apt to become disorganized and disgruntled, especially if extra work, such as washing, is entailed upon them. In many instances the washing of small necessary articles is by no means agreeable matter, whether it falls to the lot of the maid, mother, or trained attendant. Nevertheless, it is work some one must do. Physicians are cautious, and nurses become burdened with the responsibility, which should in no way fall to them, of providing some means for the care of such articles. In consequence, they are sometimes forced into a most unpleasant position, and complaints are unfairly made because, through no fault of theirs, affairs are not running smoothly. This little machine has been in use for a year or more in 'The Babies' Hos-

pital, and has been put to severe tests and given excellent satisfaction. I know that a badly soiled diaper has been perfectly cleansed in three minutes' time and there has been absolutely no odor from the washing. This washer, which can be made either portable or stationary, should be of great value in obstetrical nursing, and also in the nursing of sick infants, especially when small pieces are being soiled so fast that it is impossible to get them to the laundry and returned quick enough to supply the demand. It is very useful in cases of contagious diseases, as it is not always safe to trust an ignorant person with the care of the clothing which comes from an infected patient. After thoroughly disinfecting all articles of clothing, such as shirts, night-gowns, towels, handkerchiefs, etc., the nurse can put them in the washer and in a few moments have them absolutely clean. The inventor of this machine is a practical plumber by profession, who has many inventions of value to his credit. In constructing it he had in mind the comfort and health of the mother and her little family, but I believe it is sure to prove a boon to nurses.

MARIANNA WHEELER,  
7 West Ninety-second Street, New York.

